Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said linear n-alkanols have the OH group in the 1-position or in the 2-position.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said mammal has pathologies related to dysfunction of said CFTR selected from the group consisting of cystic fibrosis, atypical cystic fibrosis, and obstructions of the bronchial tracts or of the digestive tracts.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said n-alkanols are provided in a form suitable for intranasal or buccal administration.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said n-alkanols are provided in a liquid form, for administration in the form of an aerosol or in the form of a nebulized material.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said n-alkanols are combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier appropriate for said intranasal or buccal administration.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said n-alkanols are administered at a concentration of between 10 and 1000 ppm (parts per million).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for partially or fully activating cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator channels (CFTR) in epithelial cell membranes of a patient in need of such treatment whom suffers from at least one pathology associated with the non-activation of said CFTR, ~~consisting~~ the method comprising the steps of administering to said patient a CFTR activating agent consisting of at least one linear n-alkanol selected from the group consisting of C_6-C_{10} in an amount sufficient to generate in the vicinity of said epithelial

cell membranes a concentration of said n-alkanol sufficient to partially or fully open said CFTR in said epithelial cell membranes.

10. (Cancelled)